
REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courteous telephone interview granted Applicants' representative on August 9, 2004. This Response has been prepared pursuant to comments made during the interview.

In numbered paragraph 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in the application is 12/20/2000. This is incorrect. The application was filed on December 18, 2000, as indicated by Patent and Trademark Office records, and the effective filing date of the application is December 18, 2000. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the correct effective filing date of the application in the next Office Communication.

The specification has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner on page 6, line 17. The Examiner is thanked for bringing this error to Applicants' attention. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification.

The Abstract paragraph has also been amended and the title of the application has been deleted from the Abstract page as requested by the Examiner. Although Applicants believe that inclusion of the title of the application on the Abstract page is proper, and that neither 37 C.F.R. 1.72 nor MPEP § 608.01(b) preclude inclusion of the title on the Abstract page, the title has been deleted herein to expedite prosecution.

Claims 1-57 remain pending in the present application. No claims have been amended, and no claims have been canceled. Applicants have carefully considered the cited references and the Examiner's comments, but believe claims 1-57 patentably distinguish over the references and are allowable in their present form. Reconsideration of the rejection is, accordingly, respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

1. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14, 20-33 and 39-52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by He (U.S. Patent No. 5,944,824). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present application reads as follows:

1. A method in a data processing system for changing a plurality of target passwords in a single sign-on environment, comprising the steps of:
in response to receiving a change instruction identifying a first single sign-on password, changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password;
retrieving a target password; and
modifying the target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password to create a modified target password.

Applicants submit that He does not disclose the claimed steps of:

in response to receiving a change instruction identifying a first single sign-on password, changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password;

and

modifying the target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password to create a modified target password.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner states the following:

Claim 1 recites changing the SSO password in response to receiving a change instruction. He disclosed a programmed method and system for changing passwords in a Single Sign-On (SSO) environment (See He Col. 13, Paragraph 3-7). He disclosed that in response to a request to modify a user account (See He Col. 13 Lines 12-13) a new password is generated (See He Col. 13 Lines 20-22) and the old password is set to the new password (See He Col. 13 Lines 43-45).

Claim 1 further recites retrieving and modifying a target password. He disclosed changing a target NE password to the specified new password (See He Col. 13 Lines 31-35).

Office Action dated May 14, 2004, pages 3 and 4.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner does not comment with respect to the claim limitation "in response to receiving a change instruction identifying a first single sign-on

password, changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password", and does not indicate where this limitation is disclosed in He. This limitation is not disclosed in Col. 13, Paragraphs 3-7 of He referred to by the Examiner, nor have Applicants been able to identify any such disclosure in He.

He is directed to permitting a single sign-on (SSO) of users to a plurality of network elements, and describes data structures and procedures that support the SSO functionality in a distributed network environment. He does not relate to changing an SSO password, and does not disclose changing a first single sign-on password to a second single sign-on password in response to receiving a change instruction identifying the first single sign-on password.

Col. 13, Paragraphs 3-7 of He reads as follows:

Precondition 250: A user account is being created or modified. Access by the user 12 to an NE 20 is defined and the user 12 is granted with the SSO capability to this NE 20. The network security administrator 17 who is carrying out the task is an authenticated user to the security server 15 node.

The <User Log-on Identifier> is created 252 randomly or manually for the user account. The <Present Password> is created 254 randomly or manually for the user account. The <New Password> is created 256 randomly or manually for the user account. Next, the NE record is fetched 258 from the security database 13 at the security server 15 node. The <Super-User Logon Identifier, Present Password, New Password> for the NE is retrieved 260 from the record.

At this point, the process continues when a message containing <Super-User Log-on Identifier, Present Password, New Password> for the NE along with <NE, User Log-on Identifier, Present Password> for the user account is sent 262 to the secure terminal server 24 that serves the NE. The secure terminal server 24 invokes a local procedure 263 that performs the log-in sequence of the NE 20, logs in as a super user, creates or resets the user account in the NE 20 changes the super user password to a new one using the data provided in the message. The security server 15 returns control to the main procedure at the security server 15 node on successful completion of the steps.

Next, the <Present Password> for the super user is set 264 to the value of <New Password> in the same record and set the <New Password> for the super user 94 to a randomly generated one. This data is written 266 into the super user account in the security database 13 at the security server 15.

Post result 270: The user password entry is created for the user account and is synchronized with that in the NE 20.

Col. 13, Paragraphs 3-7 of He do not discuss changing an SSO password and certainly do not disclose the claimed step of "in response to receiving a change instruction identifying a first single sign-on password, changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password". The paragraphs instead relate to the precondition that a user account is being created or modified, and that access to an NE (Network Element) is defined and granted to a user with SSO capability. The paragraphs do not discuss changing an SSO password. The reference only discloses changing an NE password or a super user password (which, as described in Col. 11 Lines 3-11 of He, is a separate identifier that supports the implementation of SSO and assists, for example, in setting up and changing user passwords in the NE).

He also does not disclose the claimed step of "modifying the target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password to create a modified target password". Specifically, since He does not disclose changing a first SSO password to a second SSO password, as indicated above; the reference also does not disclose modifying a target password in a user selected manner to match the second SSO password to create a modified target password. Only the present application contains such a disclosure.

In order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, a reference must clearly and unequivocally disclose every feature recited in the claim. He does not disclose "in response to receiving a change instruction identifying a first single sign-on password, changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password" or "modifying the target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password to create a modified target password" as recited in claim 1; and, therefore, cannot anticipate claim 1.

For at least all the above reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by He, and withdrawal of the rejection thereunder is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-14 depend from and further restrict claim 1, and are also not anticipated by He, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Independent claims 20 and 39 recite limitations similar to claim 1, and are also not anticipated by He for substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect

to claim 1. Claims 21-33 depend from claim 20, and claims 40-52 depend from claim 39, and are also not anticipated by He, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-14, 20-33 and 39-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

Furthermore, He does not teach, suggest, or give any incentive to make the needed changes to reach the presently claimed invention. He is concerned with components and procedures for supporting an SSO functionality, and is not concerned with changing an SSO password. Accordingly, the disclosure in He would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify He to reach the present invention when the reference is examined as a whole. Absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive to modify He in this manner, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an improper use of hindsight using Applicants' own disclosure as a template to make the necessary changes to reach the claimed invention.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner has rejected claims 15, 34 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over He in view of Redpath (U.S. Patent 5,854,629). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Redpath is cited as disclosing the use of GUIs to simplify interaction with computer programs. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to the ordinary person skilled in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of Redpath in He such that the user is supplied a GUI menu in order to select a password generation method.

Claims 15, 34 and 53, however, depend from and further restrict independent claims 1, 20 and 39, respectively, and Redpath does not supply the deficiencies in He as discussed above. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, claims 15, 34 and 53 are not obvious over He in view of Redpath.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16, 35 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over He in view of Prafullchandra (U.S. Patent 5,734,718). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prafullchandra is cited as teaching that requiring users to change passwords at predetermined intervals can enhance system security. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to the ordinary person skilled in the art at the time of the invention to employ the password aging and changing policy of Prafullchandra in He.

Claims 16, 35 and 54, however, depend from and further restrict independent claims 1, 20 and 39, respectively, and Prafullchandra does not supply the deficiencies in He as discussed above. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, claims 16, 35 and 54 are not obvious over He in view of Prafullchandra.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 17-19, 36-38 and 55-57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over He in view of Prafullchandra. The Examiner states that it would be obvious to use the aging policy of Prafullchandra to all the types of passwords of He.

Claims 17-19, 36-38 and 55-57, however, depend from and further restrict independent claims 1, 20 and 39, respectively, and Prafullchandra does not supply the deficiencies in He as discussed above. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, claims 17-19, 36-38 and 55-57 are not obvious over He in view of Prafullchandra.

Therefore, the rejections of claims 15-19, 34-38 and 53-57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) have been overcome.

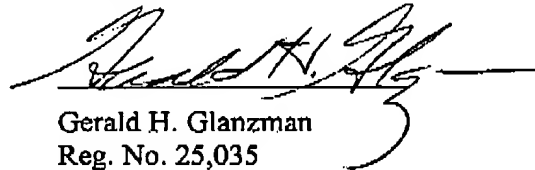
III. Conclusion

For all the above reasons, it is urged that claims 1-57 patentably distinguish over the cited references and are allowable in their present form. This application, accordingly, is believed to be in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: August 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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